is compulsory and that no exception can be made in favour of Indian Hajis. The question as to whether the pre-arranged accommodation scheme can be implemented in respect of Indian pilgrims for Haj-1989 remains under consideration. The question of enhancing the foreign exchange allocation per pilgrim will be considered if the rents payable are substantially higher than in previous years.

Delay of Indian Airlines Flights

74. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of Indian Airlines fllights delayed in December 1988 and January 1989 due to poor visibility on account of fog, smog and haze over Delhi and other cities;

(b) what were the losses suffered by the Airlines due to curtailment of flying hours during these two months;

(c) what are the other factors which affect the Airlines and contribute to its losses and the measures taken by Government to overcome these; and

(d) whether flight delays were also due to technical reasons; if so, the number of such delays in the past three months and the precise reasons for such delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) During December, 1988 and January, 1989, 284 and 237 flights of Indian Airlines were delayed respectively due to adverse weather conditions.

(b) Due to reduction in aircraft utilisation, Indian Airlines incurred a loss in profit of approx. Rs. 2.65 crores per month.

(c) The other factors which affect the Airlines and contribute to its losses are general cost escalations, wages due to increased VDA rates; steep rise in US dollar rate, time lag between the increase in cost and revision in fares, lower fares in the North-Eastern sector than the All India fares, high incidence of duties on aircraft and related spares and aviation fuel, etc.

(d) Delays/Cancellations due to technical reasons during the months of November and December, 1988 and January, 1989 were as follows:—

Month	Delays	Cancellations
November, 1988	192	27
December, 1988	202	13
January, 1989	159	5

Upgradation of Ahmedabad Airport

75. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 620 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is proposed to augment facilities for maintenance of aircrafts and establishing Engineering Section at Ahmedabad airport; and

(b) whether land has been acquired to extend the runway at Ahmedabad airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The existing engineering facility at Ahmedabad is considered adequate.

(b) The National Airports Authority have taken up the matter for the extension of the runway from 7500' to 9000' with the State Government of Gujarat.